



September 8, 2014

Dear Member:

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) supports H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, and urges a “yes” vote on the bill. WAC is an industry coalition representing the nation’s construction, real estate, mining, agriculture, transportation, forestry, manufacturing, and energy sectors, as well as wildlife conservation and recreation interests.

As evidenced at the June 11, 2014, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing, there is substantial and significant disagreement between the federal agencies, the states, local governments, and the regulated community about the scope and effect of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) proposed rule jointly published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps of Engineers (Corps). The disagreements encompass all aspects of the proposed rule, including whether the proposal is consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions regarding limits to federal jurisdiction, whether the rule reduces or expands federal jurisdiction beyond those waters currently regulated, and the implications of the new definitions that the agencies have incorporated into the proposed rule.

H.R. 5078 would lead to a better rule by requiring the agencies to conduct a transparent, representative, and open consultation with state and local officials to develop a consensus about which waters should be under federal jurisdiction. Consistent with the Clean Water Act, all other waters would remain under the jurisdiction of the various states, which are in the best position to address and decide how to protect the diversity and variability of their waters and land features.

We believe the course of action set forth in the bill will lay a foundation for the resolution of this controversial and divisive issue in a way that achieves environmental benefits and ensures our nation’s ability to engage in the robust economic activity that sustains and supports Americans working in all sectors of the American economy.

Accordingly, we urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 5078.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Exploration & Mining Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Power Association

American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Society of Golf Course Architects
Associated Builders and Contractors
The Associated General Contractors of America
Association of American Railroads
Club Managers Association of America
CropLife America
Edison Electric Institute
Federal Forest Resources Coalition
The Fertilizer Institute
Foundation for Environmental and Economic Progress (FEEP)
Golf Course Builders Association of America
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
Irrigation Association
Leading Builders of America
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of REALTORS®
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Club Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Industrial Sand Association
National Mining Association
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council (NPPC)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA)
Portland Cement Association
Professional Golfers Association of America
Public Lands Council
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE)
Southern Crop Production Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Treated Wood Council
United Egg Producers
U.S. Chamber of Commerce